

# News Release

Clarence H. Carter, Director

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## **Arizona recognized as “Best Performing” state for how its Medicaid program serves disabled citizens**

PHOENIX – A new report ranks Arizona as the nation’s “Best Performing” state when it comes to key outcomes for citizens with disabilities. The annual rankings were released this week in a report entitled [“The Case for Inclusion 2012”](#) compiled by United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). The group has issued the annual ranking since 2006. The report tracks states’ progress in the percent of people with disabilities living in the family home; the degree to which services are community based; and how people with disabilities live and participate in their communities.

According to the UCP report, Arizona took the top spot for its continued success through the Department of Economic Security’s Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) in helping its residents with disabilities to live independently, whether with a family member or on their own with assistance.

“We can proudly say that Arizona began the national trend toward supporting individuals with disabilities in their homes, rather than placing them in institutional settings,” said Director Clarence Carter. “There are two reasons why this is so successful. First, because it allows our residents to maintain their independence; and second, it saves the state and the federal governments money by providing as-needed services rather than full-time, around-the-clock care.”

Arizona was also recognized for its efficiency with funds. According to UCP, Arizona ranked 47 for its per-person spending. DDD officials credit this to the collaboration between their division, the state Medicaid program (AHCCCS) and the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS). This collaboration, allows for direct support services to be provided at a citizen’s home. Prior to ALTCS, the majority of funding was directed to support individuals in expensive out-of-home settings like care facilities.

“The division’s ALTCS program sets Arizona apart because it is a unique arrangement that manages medical, behavioral and long term cares services unlike any other state organization,” said Carter. “Because of this arrangement, we are better able to hold ourselves accountable for the services we provide.”

A full copy of the UCP “The Case for Inclusion 2012” can be found at <http://tiny.cc/f81tew>.

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